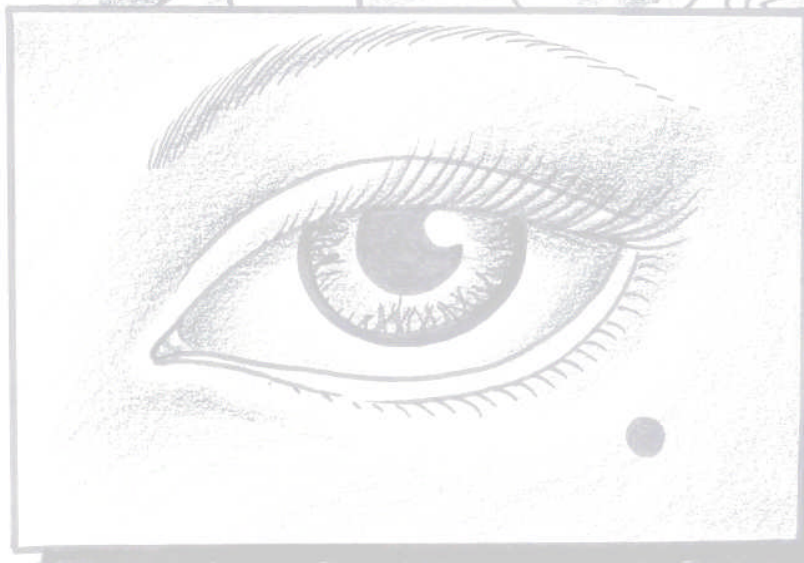


Body Arts Practitioner's Guide



County of San Diego
Department of Environmental Health
Food and Housing Division
www.sdcdeh.org
(619) 338-2379



County of San Diego

Department of Environmental Health Food and Housing Division



The mission of the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health is:

Protecting the environment and enhancing the public health by preventing disease, promoting environmental responsibility and, when necessary, enforcing environmental and public health laws.

One of the ways the Department prevents disease is by regulating body art practitioners who engage in tattooing, body piercing and the application of permanent cosmetics. To make sure that health code standards are being met, the Department conducts routine inspections in more than 100 health-permitted body art facilities in San Diego County.

In addition to its regulatory functions, the Department promotes health and safety education by meeting with practitioners to gain input for the Body Art Safety Program and by partnering with professional organizations to sponsor educational seminars and discussion forums for the County's 300 registered body art practitioners.

This guide has been developed to provide you, the body arts practitioner, with:

- A basic understanding of how to prevent infections and allergic reactions
- Information regarding the body art inspection process
- An explanation of the Department's Body Art Inspection Report
- A guide and template for developing an Exposure Control and Infection Prevention Plan

The intent of this guide is to assist you in evaluating your risk management and safety procedures and may not be all inclusive. It is designed to help you perform body art procedures in a safe and compliant manner.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Cathy Montie, owner of Absolute Tattoo, and her crew, for photographs taken in her shop

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PREVENTING INFECTIONS AND ALLERGIC REACTIONS

Risk Factors for Infection and Allergic Reactions

When skin is pierced during a body art procedure there is a risk of infection or allergic reaction. Infection can occur when microorganisms are introduced into new tattoos or body piercings. Pathogens can be transmitted directly by contact between two people, or indirectly by contact with an object that is contaminated with pathogens. Microorganisms normally found on the surface of the skin can also cause infection if they are introduced into the skin during a body art procedure. Allergic reactions can occur if a client is sensitive to metals, inks, latex, or chemicals.

Your actions as a body art practitioner may determine if your clients will get an infection or have an allergic reaction.

Risk factors for infection or allergic reactions from a body art procedure include:

- Contaminated instruments and surfaces
- Direct contact with blood
- The number of microorganisms on the skin at the site of the procedure
- Poor practitioner health and hygiene
- Unknown client allergies to latex, metals, inks, or chemicals
- Unprotected fresh tattoos and body piercings
- Improper care of tattoos and body piercings during the healing process

Your county health inspector will focus on the above risk factors when conducting inspections of your shop, and when observing the practices you use during a body art procedure. County health inspectors are Environmental Health Specialists (EHS) who have been trained in infection prevention and control and can discuss methods for eliminating unsafe conditions or practices.

Strategies for Preventing Infection and Allergic Reactions

The following is a list of measures you can take to lower the risks for infections and allergic reactions:

- Follow your shop's Exposure Control and Infection Prevention Plan 100% of the time
- Complete annual training on your shop's Exposure Control and Infection Prevention Plan
- Complete annual bloodborne pathogens training
- Observe proper health and hygiene practices
- Review the client's medical history and ask questions before beginning a procedure
- Provide written and verbal aftercare instructions to your clients
- Answer any questions your client may have about the procedure

You have a share of the responsibility for making sure your client does not get an infection or have an allergic reaction from the body art procedure you perform. Following your shop's Exposure Control and Infection Prevention Plan will also protect you by minimizing your exposure to bloodborne pathogens, and will help you ensure a good outcome for your client.

UNDERSTANDING THE BODY ART INSPECTION REPORT

When conducting an inspection, the Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) will use the official body art inspection report to inspect your shop and to evaluate the procedures you use when performing body art procedures. At the completion of the inspection, the EHS will review the results of the inspection and the actions required to correct any violations. You should keep a copy of your inspection report in your own file, and provide a copy of your report to the owner of the shop for filing with the facility inspection reports.

The Environmental Health Specialist will work with you to gain voluntary compliance whenever possible. **It is important, however, to realize that you must immediately cease any action and correct any condition that may spread bloodborne pathogens such as hepatitis B (HBV), hepatitis C (HCV), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).**

Violations of the San Diego County Body Art Ordinance will be noted on your Body Art Inspection Report. For example, failure to obtain and review a client's medical questionnaire is a violation because this could result in you not taking the necessary measures to ensure a safe and positive outcome. If you expose a client who is allergic to latex, the person could go into anaphylactic shock. If you tattoo an area where a client has had herpes in the past, there is a possibility of activating the herpes virus and causing herpes to erupt throughout the area being tattooed. To prevent this from happening, you should advise your client to seek medical advice before tattooing the area.

Another example of a violation is malfunctioning sterilization equipment, or procedure errors that result in the failure of the sterilization process. Your sterilization monitoring program must include a written log that includes results for a combination of biological, chemical and mechanical indicators. When the sterilization process results in a failure of any of these indicators, the equipment must be repackaged and sterilized. Body art may not be performed in the shop unless in-house sterilization can be assured, or unless purchased pre-sterilized needles and equipment are used.

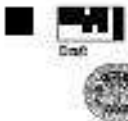
Reports for all inspections conducted in the facility should be periodically reviewed by the owner and practitioners to evaluate improvements and to look for repeat violations. Trends in the occurrence of violations can identify specific training needs, procedural changes, or equipment improvements necessary to reduce the risk of causing infection or allergic reaction in your clients.

If you are an owner, you are responsible for developing, implementing, and maintaining a written Exposure Control and Infection Prevention Plan (ECIPP), and for ensuring the ECIPP is followed by everyone. It is also your responsibility to make sure your shop is clean, has properly functioning equipment, and is well supplied.

If your facility has a history of recurring violations, you may be issued a notice to appear for an administrative hearing. The administrative hearing could result in an individual practitioner, or the facility as a whole, being placed on an improvement plan. Your Health Permit may be suspended or revoked for more serious violations of the code, continued noncompliance, or interference in the performance of the duties of the Environmental Health Specialist.

The rest of this section of the guide provides an explanation of the main sections of the Body Art Inspection Report. This information is intended to be a resource to help you meet the requirements of the San Diego County Body Art Ordinance.

Sample Body Art Inspection Report



BODY ART INSPECTION REPORT
County of San Diego
Department of Environmental Health
(619) 514-2222 (TTY) 202-8932
P.O. Box 120011, San Diego, CA 92112-0011
www.sdhhs.org

Date - MONTH / DAY / YEAR

Facility Number

Facility Type

Inspection Type

Inspection Issued

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Demonstration of Knowledge

Talented body art practitioners are always ready to learn new skills and techniques that can help them produce better results. In addition to perfecting artistic skills, however, body art practitioners must also understand the importance of using good infection prevention procedures to protect their clients and themselves. Professional body art practitioners willingly participate in training sessions inside the shop and seek educational opportunities offered by professional organizations outside of the shop. At a minimum, every body art practitioner should increase their knowledge by completing the following annual training:

Bloodborne Pathogens Training - Annual Certificate

Practitioners and employees who are exposed to bloodborne pathogens or other potentially infectious materials while performing their job are required to complete annual bloodborne pathogens training that complies with the current guideline for bloodborne pathogen training under Cal/OSHA Title 8, section 5193.

Exposure Control and Infection Prevention Plan Training

Every body art shop must have an effective Exposure Control and Infection Prevention Plan (ECIPP)

Effective plans require:

- The owner of the shop to develop, implement and maintain the ECIPP
- In-shop training on the ECIPP when a person starts working in the shop, and training annually or whenever there are changes to the plan.
- The practitioners and employees to understand the ECIPP and to follow it all of the time



The Exposure Control and Infection Prevention Plan should be reviewed annually or whenever changes are made in practices, procedures or equipment. Any changes in practices, procedures or equipment should be noted in the plan. Practitioners and employees exposed to blood and other potentially infectious materials should participate in the annual review of the plan and complete at least two hours training on the practices and procedures covered in the plan.

Cleaning, Packaging, Sterilization, and Storage

Instrument sterilization is an essential part of any infection control program. The primary rule of infection control in the body art setting is **"Sterilize any instrument that comes into contact with mucous membranes or non-intact skin."**



A properly loaded autoclave

MAJOR VIOLATION

Failure to clean and sterilize reusable instruments that break the skin or that comes into contact with non-intact skin or mucous membranes

Sterilization is a process intended to kill all microorganisms including bacterial spores.

Sterilization is a process, not an event. A process cannot be called sterilization unless the process has been shown to be capable of killing high numbers of bacterial spores. Passing a Biological Indicator test is the most definitive way to show that this has been accomplished (See page 8 for a detailed explanation).

Both the State of California and the County of San Diego require the use of steam under pressure (an autoclave) for in-house sterilization in body art shops. The saturated steam produced by the pressure in the autoclave is many times more effective than dry air in delivering heat. Steam is also good at killing microorganisms because it softens any protective outer layer of the microorganism. This allows the inner portions of the microorganism to be coagulated or cooked in a manner similar to cooking egg whites.

Liquid sterilants, such as gluteraldehyde, are not approved for sterilizing tattoo, body piercing and permanent cosmetics instruments because of the adverse affects they can have on people and the environment.

Note! Purchased, pre-sterilized items must have the manufacturer's indication of sterilization on the package.

Factors Affecting Steam Sterilization

To be effective, steam sterilization requires time, contact, temperature, and high pressure.

This means the autoclave must be capable of creating enough pressure and heat to turn water into steam. It also requires needles, needle tubes, and instruments to be packaged and placed in the

UNDERSTANDING THE BODY ART INSPECTION REPORT

autoclave in a way that allows steam to contact all the surfaces for an amount of time sufficient to kill all the microorganisms.

The effectiveness of the sterilization process is also dependent upon four factors related to the items to be sterilized.

- The number of microorganisms present
- The type of microorganisms present
- The numbers of cracks and crevices on the item that might shelter microorganisms
- The amount and type of organic matter that could protect the microorganisms

This means sterilization cannot be assured without thorough cleaning to remove all organic or inorganic material remaining on the instruments that could prevent steam from reaching the microorganisms during the sterilization process.

Methods of Cleaning

There are two general methods of cleaning reusable instruments: machine cleaning, and manual cleaning.

Machine cleaning in an ultrasonic cleaner is the recommended method.

Using an ultrasonic cleaner lessens exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials.

Using an ultrasonic cleaner saves time.

When used correctly, ultrasonic cleaners remove organic materials more efficiently and completely than hand cleaning.



Manual cleaning should be avoided when possible.

Note: Ultrasonic cleaners should have the lid in place when used



Cleaning instruments by hand requires the use of small brushes to get into cracks and crevices, and may still leave ink and organic materials on the equipment.

Small brushes can also puncture your gloves causing exposure to bloodborne pathogens and other potentially infectious materials.

Regardless of the cleaning method used, all items to be sterilized must be allowed to air dry before packaging.

Packaging instruments for sterilization

In addition to thorough cleaning, instruments must be properly packaged to allow complete steam penetration.

This means hemostats, pliers, and other instruments with hinges must be sterilized in the open position.

Failure to autoclave them in the open position increases the potential that steam will not penetrate the ridges and crevices in the tips of the hemostats. If the steam does not reach all the cracks and crevices of the instrument, it will not be sterilized.



Hemostats packaged in the open position

MAJOR VIOLATION

Failure to properly package and label reusable instruments for sterilization

Sharp objects must be packaged so the packaging is not pierced.

Instruments with packaging that is pierced or allowed to dry outside of the autoclave must be re-packaged, and sterilized.

Labeling Packages for Sterilization

All items to be sterilized should be labeled with the following information:

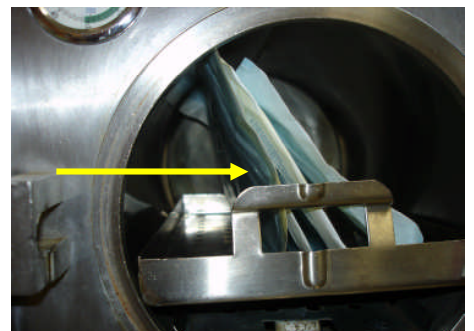
- Contents of package (when contents are not visible through packaging)
- Sterilization date
- Load number
- Initials of person processing the load

Loading the Autoclave to Ensure Proper Steam Penetration

Proper steam penetration is necessary for an effective sterilization process. Packages should be loaded upright on their sides to help the steam reach all surfaces.

An autoclave should never be overloaded. When an autoclave is overloaded, steam may not penetrate all areas.

Peel packs should be autoclaved on edge with the plastic side next to a paper side so steam can penetrate the packs.



Peel packs properly placed on edge

Monitoring the Sterilization Process

As sterilization processes have evolved and become more complex, so have the monitoring systems used to check the process. Consistent monitoring of your sterilization process using a combination of **biological**, **chemical** and **mechanical indicators** is the only way to ensure that you are not exposing your clients and yourself to potential cross-contamination of bloodborne pathogens such as hepatitis B and C from instruments that have been sterilized in your shop.

Biological Indicators (BI)

Biological indicators, or spore tests, are made by placing a standardized, viable population of bacterial spores (e.g., *Geobacillus* or *Bacillus* species) into a liquid or onto a paper strip. Two of these samples form a spore test kit. One of the samples is run with a normal load of instruments to be sterilized, the second sample acts as a control, and is not sterilized. Both samples are then tested for growth. Growth in the control but not in the sterilized sample shows the sterilization process worked.

Biological indicators are the only way to know if the sterilization process you are using has actually killed the bacteria and spores.

Monitoring monthly with a biological indicator such as *Bacillus stearothermophilus*, commonly referred to as spore testing, is an essential part of an adequate sterilization monitoring system.

MAJOR VIOLATION

Failure to spore test an autoclave after initial installation, after any major repair, and at least once per month by using a commercial biological indicator monitoring system

Chemical Indicators (CI) are strips, tapes and markings on bags and pouches that change color or physical form after exposure to heat. The most basic, **Class 1 indicators**, found on paper and plastic peel packs, are designed to show that the item has been exposed to a sterilization process and to distinguish between processed and non-processed items. **Class 2 indicators** are designed for specific test procedures. For example, the class 2 Bowie Dick and Dart indicators test for the presence of air in the steam sterilizing chamber. A positive test would indicate that air has either not been removed during the cycle or has entered the chamber through leaks in the system, and that maintenance must be performed on the autoclave. Other classes of chemical indicators are used for monitoring sterilization, but only the class 5 integrating indicator, also called an Integrator, is designed to react to all critical parameters over a specified range of sterilization cycles.

Class 5 Indicators (Integrators), have had their performance correlated to the performance of a biological indicator (BI) under its labeled conditions for use. Including an Integrator in each load processed gives immediate feedback on whether the parameters of heat, steam penetration and time have been achieved.



Class 5 Integrators



Class 5 Integrators are so reliable that they have been approved by the ANSI/AAMI/ISO 11140-1, 2005 Standard as an appropriate process challenge to release any sterilized load that doesn't contain implants. They will also be used by your inspector to check your autoclave during inspections.

Remember, however, the “pass” reading of a Chemical Indicator (CI) does not mean that the item or items in the sterilizer load are sterile; it means that the parameters for sterilization that the CI was designed to measure have been met. That is why packaging the items and loading the autoclave must always be done correctly. If an autoclave is not loaded correctly, sterilization may occur in some areas of the autoclave and not in others.

Mechanical Indicators (MI)

The third method of monitoring the sterilization process is checking the **mechanical indicators** on your autoclave. **Always check the gauges on the autoclave to make sure that the pressure and temperature are correct before you begin timing the process.**

STANDARD CONDITIONS FOR STEAM STERILIZATION

Steam Sterilization (Gravity displacement): Temperature should be 121⁰ C (250⁰ F); Pressure should be 106kPa (15lbs/in²); 30 minutes for packaged items.

Or at higher temperature of 132⁰ C (279⁰ F), pressure should be 30 lbs/in²; 15 minutes for packaged items.

Allow all items to dry before removing them from the autoclave.

Note: Pressure settings (kPa or lbs/in²) may vary slightly depending on the autoclave used. Follow manufacturer's recommendations for your autoclave.

Remember:

- Exposure time begins **only after** the autoclave has reached the target temperature.
- Do not overload the autoclave. Leave at least 3 inches between the items and the walls of the autoclave. Overloading alters heat convection and increases the time required to sterilize.

*Source: Adopted from Principles and Methods of Sterilization in Health Sciences.
JJ Perkins. 1983*

Sterilization Log Maintained

You must keep a written log of each load you process in the autoclave. Sterilization logs must be kept on file at the shop for two years, and must contain the following information:

- Date of load
- Load number
- Exposure time and temperature
- Initials of the person processing the load
- Result of the Integrator test
- The result of the biological Indicator when processed
- Actions taken when the Integrator or biological indicator do not pass

Storage of Sterilized Equipment



MAJOR VIOLATION

Failure to protect sterilized equipment packages from moisture and contamination

It is essential for sterilized equipment to be stored in a way that keeps it dry and protects the packaging from contamination. You should only handle sterilized packages with clean gloves. Touching sterilized packages with bare hands or gloves that have been used in a body art procedure can result in cross-contamination. Pathogens can then be transferred to the sterilized equipment when the packages are opened.

Sterile packages should always be evaluated before use. An instrument should never be used if the package is wet, torn, or punctured.

Machines and Hand tools - Cross-Contamination

Traditional Coil Machines



MAJOR VIOLATIONS

Failure to decontaminate a machine between clients.

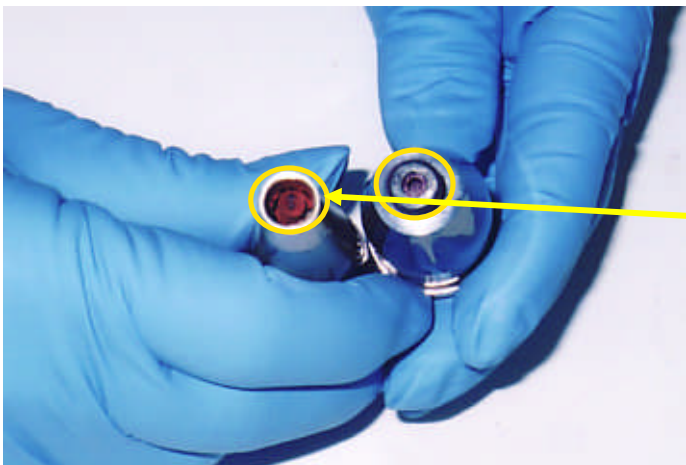
Failure to change needles, needle tubes, rubber bands, and grommets or nipples between clients.

Traditional coil machines have a potential for cross-contamination between customers. The machine must be decontaminated and all removable parts of the machine must be changed between each customer.

Failure to change the removable parts and decontaminate the machine is a practice that can lead to cross-contamination.

Permanent Cosmetics Machines

There are many different tattooing machines used by permanent cosmetic technicians. Some machines are safe and some are not. **The rule of thumb should be: If a machine has replaceable parts and can be taken apart back to a sealed motor, then the design is probably safe to use.**



MAJOR VIOLATIONS

Using a machine that allows pigment to travel back up into the motor.

Failure to replace all machine parts back to the motor between each client.

UNDERSTANDING THE BODY ART INSPECTION REPORT



Safe machines can be taken apart back to the motor.

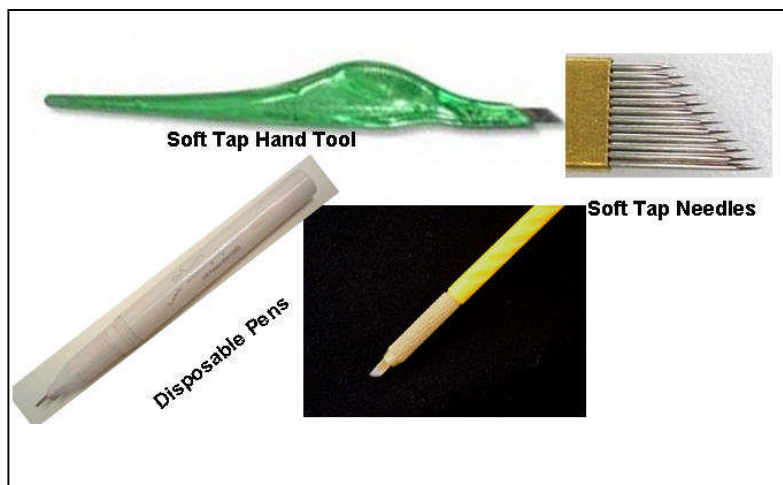


Unsafe machines cannot be taken apart.

All of the parts of the machine back to the motor must be replaced with sterile parts for each client.

The motor housing must be disinfected between clients.

Safe Hand tools



Hand tools can be either disposable, or can have reusable handles.

You should only use reusable handles if you have an autoclave to sterilize the handle between clients.

You are not permitted to reuse tools that have non-removable needles.

Pre-sterilized needles are sold separately for **single-use** with the handles.

Sterilizing the handles in liquid sterilants such as glutaraldehyde is not permitted in San Diego. Only steam autoclaves are allowed for sterilizing equipment.

Unsafe Hand Tools



Three tools of varying size



Enlarged tool

Tattooing should never be done with unsafe hand-made tools like those shown here.

The “needle groups” indicated by the arrow in the picture to the left are made from bone. Reusing needles is not permitted. Hand tools should be designed as a completely disposable tool, or designed to be used with single-use needle groups.

Note the ink stains above the needle group on the tool in the picture to the right.

These tools cannot be cleaned and sterilized properly.

The needle groups are not designed to be single use.

These tools can cause cross-contamination between clients that can result in illness.

MAJOR VIOLATIONS

Using unsafe tools that cannot be easily cleaned and sterilized

Reusing needles

Clients and Client Records

Client Restrictions

Both the California Penal Code and the San Diego County Body Art Ordinance prohibit tattooing any person under the age of 18 years. The City of San Diego prohibits tattooing any person under the age of 21 without parental consent.

The California penal code prohibits body piercing on any person under the age of 18 years unless the body piercing is performed in the presence of, or as directed by a notarized writing by, the person's parent or guardian.

UNDERSTANDING THE BODY ART INSPECTION REPORT

The proposed San Diego County Body Art Ordinance also prohibits nipple or genital piercing on any person under the age of 18 years, even if the body piercing is to be performed in the presence of, or as directed by a notarized writing by, the person's parent or legal guardian.

In addition to age restrictions, a client should have clearance from a licensed physician prior to receiving any body art procedure if the client:



- Is under current medical recommendation to receive antibiotics prior to dental or surgical procedures
- Requests a procedure on an area of the skin that has a rash, infection, draining lesions, moles, or has a past history of herpes or cold sores

Clients who have had herpes in the area of the requested body art procedure should seek the advice of a physician about the need to begin taking antiviral medication before the procedure. Tattooing areas that have had a history of herpes can cause activation of the virus. The herpes virus can then cause an infection throughout the area that is tattooed.

Before Beginning a Procedure

It is important to remember that all required paperwork must be completed before beginning any procedure on a client. This can be accomplished by providing the client with a clipboard and all the necessary forms.

Before you begin, check the forms to make certain that the client has answered all the questions and has signed the forms. You must also check to see if the client has met age requirements and if they have listed any conditions on the medical history form that should be addressed or that may affect the outcome of the procedure.



A record of each client must be maintained for three years that includes:

- Date of procedure
- Client's name
- Client's date of birth
- Client's address
- Copy of client's identification
- Client's signature
- Name of practitioner
- Description or copy of procedure
- Location on body of procedure
- Signed Informed Consent

UNDERSTANDING THE BODY ART INSPECTION REPORT

You should review the procedure with your client to make sure they know what to expect, and you should discuss aftercare instructions that are specific for the body art procedure they will receive. You should also answer any questions your client may have. This is especially important for a client with no previous body art experience.

After you review the aftercare instructions with your client, hold the written aftercare instructions with the rest of the client records at the front counter until the client is ready to leave. When the client is ready to leave provide him or her with a copy of the signed informed consent and a copy of the written aftercare instructions.

Aftercare - Ensuring a Good Outcome

Aftercare begins at the completion of the piercing, tattooing or the application of permanent cosmetics. You are responsible for beginning this process.

Make sure that you gently clean the site of the procedure to remove excess ointments, inks, pigments, etc., and that you apply an appropriate protective covering before the client leaves the shop.

Following this procedure not only gets the healing process off to a good start, it also protects other people from potential exposure to bloodborne pathogens.

An appropriate protective covering obviously varies depending on the type of procedure, the location of the procedure site on the body, and whether there is any weeping from the procedure site.

A client should never be allowed to leave your shop with a tattoo that is not protected.

If the tattoo is weeping, additional steps must be taken to prevent the fluid from potentially contaminating environmental surfaces and other people.

Applying an absorbent dressing near the edge of the fresh tattoo when bandaging the area can trap any body fluid oozing from the tattoo.

MAJOR VIOLATION

Not cleaning and protecting the site of the body art procedure before the client leaves the shop.

Failure to apply an absorbent dressing when tattoos are weeping.

You should never let a client leave the shop without providing them with both written and verbal aftercare instructions. Besides explaining how to take care of the site of the body art, your instructions should also include any restrictions on physical activities such as bathing, recreational water activities, gardening, contact with animals, or any other activity that should be avoided until healing is complete. Tell your client how long the healing process should take. Compare the signs of normal healing with the signs of infection that indicate a need to seek medical attention.

Give your clients the shop phone number so they can call if they have any questions.

You cannot predict if a body art procedure site will become infected after the client leaves the shop, but you can influence the client's actions by explaining the importance of carefully following all the aftercare instructions.

Practitioner Health and Hygiene

Tuberculosis (TB)

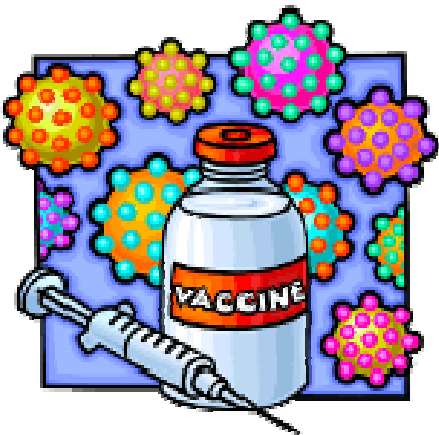
Part of your personal health regime should be getting tested for tuberculosis. TB is spread through the air from one person to another when a person with active TB breathes, talks, or coughs.

Body art practitioners are at risk for exposure to TB. Permanent cosmetic technicians are especially at risk because permanent cosmetics procedures can require a significant length of time in close proximity to clients who may have active TB.

Tuberculosis is a treatable disease. Without treatment, however, more than half of people with active tuberculosis will die within five years.

Hepatitis B vaccination

You should complete the hepatitis B vaccine series unless you know that you already have immunity to hepatitis B.



What does the hepatitis B vaccine protect you against?

- Protects you from acute hepatitis B
- Prevents you from being a HBV carrier
- Protects you from chronic liver disease caused by HBV
- Protects you from co-infection with hepatitis D

Take Care of Your Hands and Arms

You have a responsibility to your client to make sure that you do not transfer any disease or infection to your clients.

Take care to protect your hands and arms from getting blisters and cuts when you are engaged in sports or hobbies outside of the shop.

You should not do tattooing or body piercing if you have any infected cuts, open sores, or rashes on your hands or arms.

Pimples, boils, and other skin infections contain pathogens that can be transferred to your clients. Take precautions to avoid transferring pathogens from any skin conditions to environmental surfaces or supplies that will be used during body art procedures.

You should always make sure your hands, including your fingernails, are free from dirt and grime. Grime is filled with microorganisms and can provide an additional source of potential infection.



Hand Hygiene

So why all the fuss about hand hygiene? Because the most common mode of transmission of pathogens is by the hands!

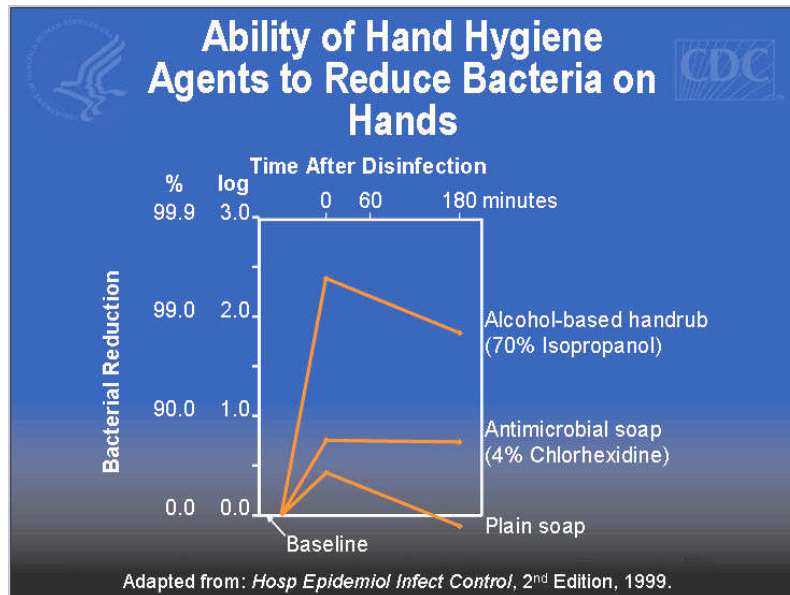
Consistent and effective hand hygiene is one of the most important things you can do to protect yourself and your client.

A general rule is to perform hand hygiene when arriving at work, before beginning any body art procedure, when donning gloves or removing gloves, and after any contact with surfaces or items that may be contaminated with bloodborne pathogens or other potentially infectious materials.

MAJOR VIOLATION

Failure to perform proper hand hygiene.

What is hand hygiene? Hand hygiene includes washing your hands with plain soap and water, plus additional techniques that can be used to further decrease and prevent the growth of microorganisms on your hands. You should be trained on the hand hygiene procedures specified in the shop Exposure Control and Infection Prevention Plan (ECIPP) before you begin working in the shop. The ECIPP should have detailed procedures for performing each hand hygiene technique, and should specify when each technique can be used. The following methods of reducing the number of microorganisms on your hands are all included under the heading of hand hygiene.



- **Handwashing** means washing hands with plain soap and water for at least 15 seconds
- **Antiseptic handwash** means washing hands with water and soap or detergents containing an antiseptic agent
- **Alcohol-based handrub** means rubbing hands with an alcohol-containing preparation

You must always wash your hands as soon as possible after you remove your gloves at the end of a procedure.

You can increase the effectiveness of handwashing by using antibacterial soaps and alcohol hand rubs with 70% alcohol. These have been shown to increase the effectiveness of hand washing. In some situations, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) says alcohol hand rubs can be used separately as a method of hand hygiene that significantly reduces the bacteria on your hands.

Applying a 70% alcohol hand rub before putting on your gloves makes your gloves go on more easily and inhibits the growth of bacteria in the warm and moist area created by your gloves.

Personal cleanliness

It is essential for practitioners to practice good personal hygiene. You should make it a practice to shower and put on clean clothes just before going to work.

Ideally, you should put on clean shop clothes once you are at work, to insure that you are not bringing dirt and contamination into the procedure room. Wearing shop clothes and leaving them in the shop can also protect your street clothes and potentially prevent contamination from being taken home to your family.

To protect your family, all clothes worn in the shop should be stored, washed, and sanitized separately from regular street clothes.

Eating, Drinking and Smoking

Eating, drinking, smoking, applying cosmetics or lip balm, and handling contact lenses are strictly prohibited in any area of the shop where exposure to bloodborne pathogens may occur.

This means food and drinks are not allowed at the workstations or in cleaning rooms.

If you feel you need a cigarette or something to drink, your client may be feeling the same way. Both of you should take a break away from the procedure area.

MAJOR VIOLATIONS

Eating, drinking or smoking in the procedure room or in the cleaning room

Standards of Practice – Preventing Cross-Contamination

What are Standards of Practice? Standards of practice are rules, laws, guidelines, expectations, and general criteria used for establishing how a business or profession will be conducted. Everyone from medical personnel to farmers have standards of practice. The shop Exposure Control and Infection Prevention Plan (ECIPP) is where you will find the standards of practice for body art professionals. Your shop's ECIPP is based on federal, state and local laws, and establishes the standards of practice for everyone working in the shop. The ECIPP defines the roles of the shop owner, employees, and practitioners, and establishes the criteria that will be used to evaluate your performance during inspections.

MAJOR VIOLATIONS

Failure to use standard precautions and other strategies outlined in the ECIPP to prevent or reduce exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials, and to prevent or reduce the risks of infection associated with the body art procedures performed in the shop

Practitioners should strive to follow the practices and procedures outlined in the ECIPP all of the time

UNDERSTANDING THE BODY ART INSPECTION REPORT

During inspections, the Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) will look at the general condition of the shop, test the autoclave, and check the records for your sterilization process. You may also be observed to determine how well you follow the ECIPP and how careful you are. **Test yourself!**

Do you routinely use strategies, practices and procedures to:

- **Prevent** yourself from acquiring hepatitis B
- **Protect** yourself and your client against TB
- **Protect** yourself from exposure to bloodborne pathogens and OPIM
- **Respond quickly** to an accidental exposure to blood
- **Prevent** cross-contamination between yourself and your client, and between clients
- **Eliminate** or minimize hazards
- **Promote** a safer environment in the shop
- **Decrease** the potential for infection after your client leaves the shop

How closely are you following the strategies outlined in the ECIPP to break the cycle of cross-contamination from you to clients, from clients to you, and from client to client?

Workstations

Workstations must be kept free of clutter and non-essential items. You should have nothing on your workstation countertop except items that you use for body art procedures. Music players, candles, gadgets, etc. should be kept on a shelf or on an additional counter, table etc.

Your workstations should have a smooth and easily cleanable surface that can repeated withstand cleaning and decontamination.

You should always use a separate area to prepare your artwork. You should not place art work on any surface that might be



A biohazard station can keep the sharps container away from your workstation. It must be close enough, however, that you can reach it without having to stand up or walk away from your workstation.

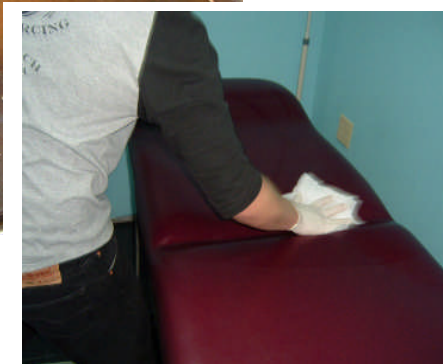
Protected Storage

Inks and other supplies used for body art procedures should be kept in a clean, dry storage area that is protected from dust, aerosols, and the potential for easy cross-contamination. You should protect the outside of the sterilized packages from cross-contamination by always using clean gloves when handling them.



Decontamination Procedures

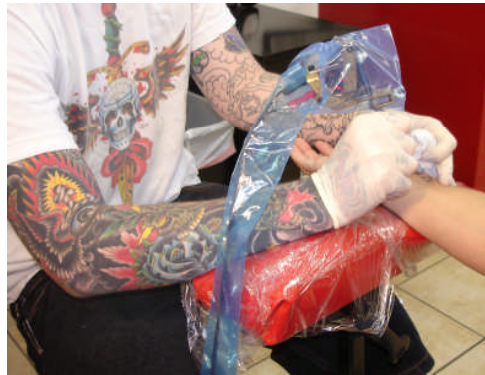
The EHS will evaluate the procedures you use to protect your clients from cross-contamination by observing how well you decontaminate your workstation between clients.



- Set-up trays and environmental surfaces must be decontaminated after each client.
- A quick spray and wipe down of your workstation can lead to a false sense of security.
- Actual decontamination requires a wet contact time that is specific for each disinfectant.
- Always follow the manufacturer's directions for the product you use.
- Nalgene bottles are the preferred method for dispensing disinfecting agents. Repeated exposure to the aerosols created by spray bottles can be harmful to your health.

Barrier Use

Using barrier film can help to prevent cross-contamination. Machines, power source knobs, clip cords, bottles, chairs, etc. should be covered with a protective barrier that is changed for each client. Using barriers adds a layer of protection and makes it easier to clean up between clients.



Personal Protective Equipment



Personal protective equipment (PPE) is designed to protect the skin and mucous membranes from exposure to pathogens. You should have available in your shop, personal protective equipment that is appropriate for all the jobs you do.

PPE for use in the shop should at a minimum include gloves, surgical masks, protective eyewear, moisture resistant sleeve guards, aprons, and other protective covering or clothing.

You must wear protective face or eye protection and protective clothing when cleaning needle tubes and other equipment.

You must wear task specific gloves (heavy-duty, puncture resistant or examination gloves) for any task where exposure to blood or OPIM may occur.

Care should be taken to avoid using gloves and hand care products that are not compatible. Latex gloves are broken down by oil-based hand lotions and lubricants such as petroleum jelly. Although gloves may appear not to have any holes, oils can cause microscopic holes to form that are large enough for bacteria, hepatitis B and other viruses to pass through the gloves and get onto your hands.

Disposal of Sharps and Contaminated Waste

All sharps **including razors** must be placed into a sharps container immediately after use. You should not leave a razor on the set-up tray while you complete the body art procedure. Carrying sharps to another area or room is not permitted. Your workstation should have a sharps container that can be easily reached.



- The sharps container should be close enough that you can reach it without walking to the sharps container. If you usually sit down when you are breaking down your tattoo machine, your sharps container should be low enough to place items into it without standing up
- You should never place a sharp into a container that is above your head. If you drop the sharp, it could result in exposure to bloodborne pathogens, or it could puncture your face, eyes, or skin
- Paper towels, cups, and other materials contaminated with blood during a procedure can be double bagged and discarded as long as there is no liquid capable of dripping out of the bag. Contaminated waste should be placed into a secured dumpster

The biohazard station shown above, has a place for needles, razors, used tubes, and contaminated waste created during body art procedures.

Written Exposure Control and Infection Prevention Plan

Every shop is required to have a written Exposure Control and Infection Prevention Plan (ECIPP) that is designed to eliminate or minimize exposure to bloodborne pathogens and other potentially infectious materials, and that specifies the method of compliance for each applicable requirement of the San Diego Body Arts Ordinance.

Establishing an effective plan is an essential part of creating a safe and compliant body art business.

The ECIPP must be available to everyone who works in the shop and to the Environmental Health Specialist during an inspection.

MAJOR VIOLATIONS

Failure of a shop owner to develop, implement and maintain a written Exposure Control and Infection Prevention Plan (ECIPP)

Failure of practitioners to comply with and follow the ECIPP

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FOOD AND HOUSING DIVISION

Qualifications of Environmental Health Specialists

Environmental Health Specialists (EHS) are required to have a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with at least 30 semester units of basic biological, physical, or environmental science courses. All Environmental Health Specialists in the Food and Housing Division are required to possess a valid registration as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist in the State of California. This registration ensures that Environmental Health Specialists have met specific educational, training, and experience requirements to better serve their communities.

What to do in the event of an accidental exposure to bloodborne pathogens or complaint of infection from clients

Body art facility owners are encouraged to report all accidental exposures and complaints of infection to the Department of Environmental Health at this designated number. (619) 338-2356. Once the report is taken, the Epidemiology Liaison will determine if a site visit is necessary. Any information received regarding an accidental exposure or infection complaint is kept confidential.

Interested in becoming more involved in San Diego Body Art Safety?

The Body Art Safety Advisory Committee (BASAC) meets each year to discuss important body art safety issues in San Diego County. If you are interested in getting involved in the BASAC, please contact us at (619) 338-2274.

Building or remodeling your body art facility?

Contact the Plan Check Unit for instructions before you begin construction.

The Plan Check Unit can be reached at (619) 338-2364.

Food and Housing Division contact numbers

Environmental Health Specialist on Duty	(619) 338-2379
Complaints	(619) 338-2283
Exposure Incident and infection complaints	(619) 338-2356
Bloodborne Pathogens Training information	(619) 338-2274
Plan Check Unit	(619) 338-2364
Website:	http://www.sdcdeh.org
E-mail:	fhduyeh@sdcounty.ca.gov

San Diego Office
1255 Imperial Ave., 3rd Fl.
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) - 388-2222
M-F 8 am – 4:30 pm

San Marcos Office
151 E. Carmel St.
San Marcos, CA 92078
(760) - 471-0730
M-F 8 am – 4:00 pm

El Cajon Office
200 E. Main, 6th Fl.
El Cajon, CA 92020
(619) - 441-4030
M-F 8 am – 4:00 pm

IMPORTANT CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Cal/OSHA Enforcement Unit San Diego District office

7575 Metropolitan Drive,
Ste. 207,
San Diego 92108
(619) 767-2280
fax (619) 767-2299

Cal/OSHA Consultation Service San Diego Office

7575 Metropolitan Drive,
Ste. 204,
San Diego 92108
(619) 767-2060
(800)-963-9494

California Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA)

<http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh>

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh>

Professional Organizations

Alliance for Professional Tattooists, Inc

(520) 514-5549
<http://www.safe-tattoos.com>

Association of Professional Piercers

(888) 888-1277
<http://www.safepiercing.org>

California Alliance for the Promotion of Safe Body Art

(858) 277-5082
<http://www.CAPSBA.org>

Society of Permanent Cosmetics Professionals

(949) 548-6447

<http://www.spcp.org>

Local Bloodborne Pathogen Classes

California Alliance for the Promotion of Safe Body Art

(858) 277-5082
<http://www.CAPSBA.org>

APPENDIX A: SELF-INSPECTION BODY ART CHECKLIST

The items shown on this checklist represent the major areas evaluated during a body art safety inspection. This check list is designed to assist you in evaluating the condition of your facility between inspections by this Department. We suggest that you go through the list, and check off those items you believe are in compliance. Any item not checked could be considered a violation and should be corrected. We hope this checklist will help you maintain a safe and compliant body art facility.



County of San Diego
Department of Environmental Health
(619)338-2379



Body Art Self-Inspection Checklist

Shop

Name _____

Date _____

	Cleaning and Sterilization
1	Ultrasonic cleaner – manufacturer's instructions followed and an appropriate cleaning agent used
2	Autoclave is clean and properly maintained
3	Autoclave passes Integrator test
4	Sterilization log is kept (with Integrator attached)
5	Autoclave is loaded correctly
6	Sterilized packages are left in autoclave until dry
	Practitioner Health and Hygiene
7	Practitioner is free from rashes, infections or open wounds
8	Hepatitis B vaccinations and TB records are kept as a part of the Exposure Control and Infection Prevention Plan
9	Personal protective equipment is available and used appropriately
10	Practitioner has completed bloodborne pathogens training
11	Hands are washed effectively and in a timely manner
12	Hand sink is accessible, and has warm running water, soap and paper towels
13	Practitioner does not eat, drink or smoke at workstation
	Client and Client Records
14	Informed consent, and medical history forms are on file for each client; any questions are answered
15	Health questionnaire is on file for each client
16	Appropriate written aftercare instructions are available and given to each client, and any questions answered
17	Skin adequately prepared before procedure
18	Tattooed skin appropriately protected before client leaves facility
	Written Exposure Control and Infection Prevention Plan
19	Exposure Determination
20	Written bandaging and aftercare instructions
21	Cleaning procedure and schedule for decontaminating environmental surfaces
22	Procedure for cleaning, packaging, sterilizing, and storing reusable instruments
23	Procedure for safe handling and disposal of sharps waste

24	Selection and use of personal protective equipment
25	Inventory of and MSDS sheets for all chemicals and disinfectants used
	Machines
26	All machines are of safe design
27	Machines broken down and disinfected between clients
28	Parts replaced between clients
	Infection Prevention and Control
29	Workstation surfaces are decontaminated between clients
30	Protected storage of machines, ink, and supplies
31	Appropriate barriers are used for machine, clip cord, bottles, set up tray, power supply
32	Sharps are placed into sharps container at workstation immediately after use
33	Cross-contamination avoided during procedures
34	Required biohazard /no access/no procedures on minors signage present
35	Biohazard waste double bagged and stored in a secure enclosure
36	Proper use of sinks: biohazard sink; mop sink; handwash sink
37	All chemicals labeled and stored properly
38	Facility maintained free of vermin and maintained in a clean and sanitary manner

The following steps will be taken to correct any items that are not checked and that are considered to be a violation.

Practitioner signature _____ Date _____

Shop Owner signature _____ Date _____

APPENDIX B: CLIENT RECORDS TEMPLATE

The Client records template contains all the information that you are required to keep for a client. They are designed to make it easy for the shop, the practitioner, and the client.

Client informed consent

Date _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Date of Birth _____ Location on Body of Tattoo _____ Name of Practitioner _____

COPY OR DESCRIPTION OF TATTOO

I accept this design. Client Signature _____

ID _____ ID _____

Page One is designed to allow you to tape it to your copier so the client's ID can be copied right onto the form.

Page Two is designed to gather the client medical history. This form should be completed, signed by the client, and reviewed by the practitioner before any body art procedure is begun.

Page Three is an informed consent form that must be completed and signed before any body art is performed on the client.

Page One

MEDICAL HISTORY

Please check any conditions listed below that apply to you.

Diabetes	Hemophilia	T.B.	Anytime
Jaundice	Blood Thinners	Excessive Sweating/flushing	Adverse reactions to ink
Fainting or	Herpes		Adverse reactions to
Cold/flu			antibiotics
Heart Condition	Pregnant	Skin Conditions	Other
	Nursing		

How long has it been since you last ate? _____

Do you have any allergies? _____

Do you use any medications that might affect the healing of the body art you wish to receive? _____

Do you have any other medical or skin conditions that may affect the outcome of your procedure? _____

Have you ever been prescribed antibiotics prior to dental or surgical procedures? _____

Is there any other information you feel you should provide to the body art practitioner? _____

Page Two

INFORMED CONSENT TO TATTOO

PLEASE READ AND CHECK THE BOXES WHEN YOU ARE CERTAIN YOU UNDERSTAND THE IMPLICATIONS OF SIGNING

In consideration of receiving a tattoo from _____, the practitioner at _____, together with its employees, apprentices, and assistants, the "Tattoo Business",

I declare the following:

☐ All questions about the body art procedure have been answered to my satisfaction, and I have been given written aftercare instructions for the tattoo I am about to receive.

☐ The tattoo described or shown on the Client record form is correctly drawn to my specifications.

☐ I understand that tattooing is permanent and that if I choose to have it removed, it may be expensive and leave scars.

☐ I declare I am the person on the legal ID presented to prove that I am at least 18 years of age.

☐ I understand the influence of alcohol or drugs and that I can voluntarily submit to be tattooed without duress or coercion.

☐ I understand there is a possibility of an allergic reaction.

☐ I understand there is a possibility of getting an infection, and have been advised that the signs and symptoms of infection include worsening redness and swelling, tenderness of the site, pus, red streaks going from the body art site toward the heart, and a temperature greater than 99.6 °F.

☐ I agree to follow all instructions concerning the care of my tattoo, and that any touch-ups needed due to my own negligence will be done at my own expense.

☐ I understand that there is a chance I might feel lightheaded, dizzy during or after being tattooed.

☐ I agree to immediately notify the artist in the event I feel lightheaded, dizzy and/or faint before, during or after the procedure.

I, _____, have been fully informed of the risks of tattooing including but not limited to infection, scarring, difficulties in detecting melanoma, and allergic reactions to tattoo pigments, latex gloves, and numbing. I have been informed of the potential risks associated with getting a tattoo. I still wish to proceed with tattoo application and I assume any and all risks that may arise from tattooing.

Signed _____ Date _____

Page Three

Date_____

CLIENT RECORD

Name_____

Address_____

Street Apt. # City State ZIP

Date of Birth

Location on Body of Tattoo

Name of Practitioner

COPY OR DESCRIPTION OF TATTOO

I accept this design. Client Signature_____ Phone
Number_____

ID

ID

MEDICAL HISTORY QUESTIONNAIRE

Name _____
Last First Middle

Date of Birth _____ Sex _____

Address _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone (_____) _____

Please check any conditions listed below that apply to you.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Diabetes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hemophilia	<input type="checkbox"/>	T.B	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asthma
<input type="checkbox"/>	Epilepsy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Blood Thinners	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eczema/Psoriasis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allergic reactions to latex
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fainting or Dizziness	<input type="checkbox"/>	Herpes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scarring/Keloiding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Allergic reaction to antibiotics
<input type="checkbox"/>	Heart Condition	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pregnancy/ Nursing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Skin Conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other

How long has it been since you last ate?

Do you have any allergies?

Do you use any medications that might affect the healing of the body art you wish to receive?

Do you have any other medical or skin conditions that may affect the outcome of your procedure? _____

Have you ever been prescribed antibiotics prior to dental or surgical procedures?

Is there any other information you feel you should provide to the body art practitioner?

The information I have provided on this complete and true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Client _____ Date _____

INFORMED CONSENT TO BODY ART

PLEASE READ AND CHECK THE BOXES WHEN YOU ARE CERTAIN YOU UNDERSTAND
THE IMPLICATIONS OF SIGNING

In consideration of receiving BODY ART from _____, the practitioner
Name of the Practitioner

at _____, (together with its employees, apprentices, and agents, the "Body Art Business")
Name of Tattoo Business

I _____ confirm the following by initialing each applicable item:
Client's name

- ☐ All questions about the body art procedure have been answered to my satisfaction, and I have been given written aftercare instructions for the procedure I am about to receive.
- ☐ The body piercing described or shown on the client record form is correctly placed to my specifications.
- ☐ The tattoo described or shown on the client record form is correctly drawn to my specifications.
- ☐ I understand that tattooing is permanent and that if I choose to have it removed, it may be expensive and leave scars.
- ☐ I am the person on the legal ID presented as proof that I am at least 18 years of age.
- ☐ I am not under the influence of alcohol or drugs and that I am voluntarily submitting to be tattooed without duress or coercion.
- ☐ I understand there is a possibility of an allergic reaction.
- ☐ I understand there is a possibility of getting an infection.
- ☐ I agree to follow all instructions concerning the care of my tattoo, and that any touch-ups needed due to my own negligence will be done at my own expense.
- ☐ I understand that there is a chance I might feel lightheaded, dizzy during or after being tattooed.
- ☐ I agree to immediately notify the artist in the event I feel lightheaded, dizzy and/or faint before, during or after the procedure.

I, _____ have been fully informed of the risks of tattooing including but not limited to infection, scarring, difficulties in detecting melanoma, and allergic reactions to tattoo pigment, latex gloves, and antibiotics. Having been informed of the potential risks associated with getting a tattoo, I still wish to proceed with tattoo application and I assume any and all risks that may arise from tattooing.

Signed _____ Date _____

APPENDIX C: AUTOCLAVE GUIDELINES

Autoclaves can be dangerous to use. This Autoclave Guideline contains points to remember to make sure that instruments are sterilized and to protect both you and the autoclave.

APPENDIX C: AUTOCLAVE GUIDELINES

Autoclave Guidelines for Sterilization of Body Art Equipment

Summary: Operating an autoclave requires caution and adherence to manufacturer's directions. All people processing body art equipment should be trained in the proper use of all autoclaves used in the business before sterilizing any equipment. Only people who have received training should be allowed to use the autoclave. A list of all people who have been trained to use the autoclave, including the date of training, should be posted adjacent to the autoclave.

The following are general autoclave guidelines. Post the exact procedures per the manufacturer of your autoclave by the autoclave.

WHAT TO DO		HOW TO DO IT
1	Check the autoclave's water level and drain screen.	Follow manufacturer's directions for adjusting water level and for locating the drain screen. Clean out any debris that might have collected.
2	Check that needles and other equipment have been properly packaged, labeled, and dated for sterilization.	All items packaged for sterilization must have a color change indicator either as part of the packaging material or as a test strip inserted into each package. Each package is to be labeled with the practitioner's initials, the processing date, and the load number. If item is not visible through packaging, then the identity of the item must be noted on packaging.
3	Arrange items according to the autoclave manufacturer's directions to insure complete sterilization of all items.	Follow the autoclave manufacturer's diagram or instructions regarding the proper loading of the autoclave.
4	Monitor sterilization of load to determine if the load has received sufficient steam and heat and has been processed long enough to achieve sterilization.	Write load number on an integrator, bag it and insert it in the center of the autoclave among the packaged items to be sterilized.
5	Set the appropriate time (per manufacturer's recommendations) for sterilization and drying.	Run autoclave for 30 – 35 minutes of sterilization plus 20-25 minutes of drying time (for typical steam autoclave).
6	Check autoclave pressure.	The autoclave should reach 15 – 30 psi (pounds per square inch) (see instructions for your autoclave)
7	Start the autoclave.	See instructions for your autoclave
8	Fill out the autoclave log.	Fill in information on the autoclave log while the autoclave is starting.
9	Follow these precautions when the autoclave cycle is finished.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wear appropriate protection equipment when opening the autoclave door Wait for the pressure gauge to drop to zero with zero time remaining before opening the door Never try to open the door if the autoclave is still exhausting Stand behind the door and open it cautiously Allow all steam to escape before reaching inside Allow sterilized packages to cool inside the autoclave until they are dry.
10	. Protect autoclaved items.	Remove dry sterilized items from the autoclave and transfer them directly to a clean covered container that is stored away from the autoclave and ultrasonic unit.
11	Check Integrator and record results.	Remove integrator and check to see if load passed. Attach the integrator to the appropriate line on the autoclave log
12	When Integrator does not show "Pass"	If integrator does not indicate a pass, do not use items processed in the autoclave. They are not sterile. Insert new integrator into the middle of the load and re-process the whole load. If the autoclave still does not pass the Integrator test, cease using the autoclave until it has been repaired to adequately sterilize.

APPENDIX D: STERILIZATION LOG

Every shop should maintain a sterilization log. This log has spaces for monitoring the sterilization process, and for actions taken when color indicators or the Integrator do not indicate that steam has penetrated all the areas of the autoclave. When this happens all items must be repackaged and sterilized again. Failure to re-package and sterilize the items can result in the transfer of bloodborne pathogens from one person to another.

Date _____

Shop Name _____

Autoclave # _____



County of San Diego
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
FOOD AND HOUSING DIVISION

Date	Load #	Contents	Operator	Time Begin - End	Temp	PSI	Peel pack Chemical Indicators (Circle if all change color)	Integrator Results	Spore Test Results when Included	Actions taken for packages with non- responsive chemical indicators or Integrators that show fail
							OK			
							OK			
							OK			
							OK			
							OK			
							OK			

APPENDIX E: INK WARNING SIGN

In 2005, several ink manufacturers were sued and required to have warnings on the inks they sell to customers in California.

NEWS RELEASE

State Judge Issues Preliminary Injunction Requiring Warnings on Tattoo Ink Products Sold by Largest Ink Sellers in US

American Environmental Safety Institute Submitted Evidence Showing Dangerous Levels of Lead and Seven Other Toxic Metals in Tattoo Inks

Los Angeles, CA – Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Irving Feffer today issued a preliminary injunction against Huck Spaulding Enterprises, Inc. ("Spaulding") and Superior Tattoo Equipment Co. ("Superior"), the largest tattoo ink sellers in the country. New York-based Spaulding sells the "VooDoo" brand, while Arizona-based Superior sells the "Prizm" brand of tattoo inks in California. The preliminary injunction requires these companies to place the following warning on their tattoo ink labels, catalogs and Internet sites for their California customers:

"WARNING: Tattoo inks and pigments contain many heavy metals, including Lead, Arsenic and others. All of these heavy metals have been scientifically determined by the State of California to cause cancer or birth defects and other reproductive harm. Pregnant women and women of childbearing age in particular should consult with their doctor before getting any tattoo. A person is exposed to tattoo inks and/or pigments when they get a tattoo because they are injected with tattoo ink under their skin or the tattoo ink is applied on their skin."

Judge Feffer granted the motion for preliminary injunction brought by the American Environmental Safety Institute in its Proposition 65 lawsuit filed in 2004 against Spaulding, Superior and seven other tattoo ink and pigment manufacturers. The lawsuit alleges that these companies are exposing teenagers and adults who are tattooed using their inks to dangerous levels of Lead and seven other toxic metals.

The Institute's President, Deborah A. Sivas, stated that, "We are gratified by this important public health action taken by Judge Feffer to protect consumers from unwarned exposure to dangerous tattoo inks. Our scientific research shows that tattoo inks sold by these companies contain Lead, Antimony, Arsenic, Beryllium, Chromium, Cobalt, Nickel and Selenium, all toxic metal poisons known to the State of California's health experts to be hazardous to human health. Tattoo customers have a right to know about this danger – before they get their tattoo."

The lawsuit also specifies that body art shop must post a warning sign. The sample sign has the required wording and the minimum size requirement.

"WARNING: Tattoo inks and pigments contain many heavy metals, including Lead, Arsenic and others. All of these heavy metals have been scientifically determined by the State of California to cause cancer or birth defects and other reproductive harm. Pregnant women and women of childbearing age in particular should consult with their doctor before getting any tattoo. A person is exposed to tattoo inks and/or pigments when they get a tattoo because they are injected with tattoo ink under their skin or the tattoo ink is applied on their skin."

(This sign must be no less than 20" X 24")

